DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 241 058 IR 050 668

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TITLE Cuban Refugee Camp Newspapers in Microform.
PUB DATE [80]
NOTE 6p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Library Collections; Microfilm; *Newspapers; *Refugees
IDENTIFIERS *Cuban Refugee Program; *Refugee Camps

ABSTRACT

This paper presents bibliographic information on ten newspapers that were published during 1980 in Cuban refugee camps in order to acquaint Cuban exiles with life in the camps and in the United States and later were collected and reproduced on microfilm by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The newspapers are described as a more accurate portrayal of refugee conditions than can be found in the local or national press due to the fact that they were written and edited partially by the Cubans themselves. An unsuccessful attempt to locate Haitian refugee camp titles is also mentioned. Bibliographic citations list newspaper title, place of publication, frequency, size, publication numbers and dates, current publication status, language(s) of publication, editor(s), and OCLC number. It is noted that the microfilm reels can be purchased from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. (ESR)

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CUBAN REFUGEE CAMP NEWSPAPERS IN MICROFORM

by

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In the Spring of 1980, especially during April and May, a large number of Cubans emigrated to the United States. The political and economic conditions within Cuba had created an overwhelming urge on the part of some Cubans to leave their country for the United States. The U.S. Government's response, which developed as the influx increased dramatically, was to open several army bases to house the refugees. Three of the sites, Chaffee, Eglin, and Indiantown Gap, served refugees from Southeast Asia in 1975 and in 1980 with Camp Pendleton, California replaced by Camp McCoy, Wisconsin this time.

Soon after four main bases were opened, the base commands, and later the State Department's Cuban-Haitian Refugee Taskforce, began the publication of newspapers intended to serve this exile group by acquainting them with life in the camps and in the United States, their future homeland. These publications have considerable value in documenting the lives and feelings of the Cuban refugees. According to several of the camp paper editors, these papers (which were written and edited partially by the Cubans themselves) are a more accurate portrayal of conditions than can be found in the local or national press. Historians and others can test this hypothesis easily by comparing two of the Wisconsin publications: El Mercurio de McCoy which was produced by the Cubans at Camp McCoy, and Daily Status Report which includes copies of articles from area

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and state newspapers. An equally authentic perspective on the arrival of Cuban refugees in central Wisconsin on the part of some local residents can be discerned from a viciously satirical handbill in the Society's collections entitled "Cuban Shoot" and published by the "Society Helping Individual Taxpayers Own Nothing" (OCLC # 6748268).

The collection which is described below was developed at the suggestion of Susan J. Dorst and Gerald R. Eggleston, of the Society's Acquisitions Section, as a logical compliment to the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugee camp newspapers acquired in 1975 (described in "Vietnamese Refugee Camp Newspapers in Microform," Newspaper and Gazette Report, Volume 6, Number 3, pages 113-115). Acquisition of all titles was acomplished by telephoning the military installation housing refugees and speaking with the editors of the publications. Each of the editors asked the same questions, why we wanted their publication and how we heard about it, and were pleased to have been contacted. The Cuban refugee newspaper collection on microfilm is complete as far as can be ascertained but the continued dispersal of refugees off the main bases to smaller facilities such as Wyalusing State Park in Wisconsin may have produced additional undiscovered titles. The continuing Cuban refugee community at Fort Chaffee has the potential to create titles in addition to La Vida Nueva.

Haitian refugees, fleeing the Duvalier regime's politics and the general economic conditions, entered the United States in 1980 along with the Cubans but were housed in prisons and parks in the Miami, Florida area. Despite intensive inquiries, no Haitian refugee camp titles could be located, a situation two experts believe may be related to the very low rate of literacy in Haiti as compared to Cuba.

The titles listed below are available on 35-mm diazo microfilm from James Buckett, Gifts and Exchanges Librarian, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 (608) 262-9583. Each reel costs $15, in Wisconsin, and $20, out-of-state.

1. Campo Libertad Periodico.
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.
Daily. 28cm.
No. 1 - 97;
May 14 - September 24, 1980.
Ceased publication.
In Spanish and English.
Editor: Jeanne Luciana.
OCLC # 6984663.
Reel 1, Periodicals by and about Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-872.

2. La Libertad.
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.
Daily. 28-36cm.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - Vol. 6, No. 8;
May 20 - October 10, 1980.
Ceased publication.
In Spanish and English.
Editors: Joseph E. Murray, May 20 - August 11, 1980; Susan Goodling, August 12 - October 10, 1980.
Officers-in-Charge: Lt. Sandy Walker, May 20 - June 18, 1980; Cpt. Lynn Hanson, June 19 - October 10, 1980.
OCLC # 6984769.
Reel 1, Periodicals by and about Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-872.

3. News Release-United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Coordinating Office.
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.
Daily. 28cm.
July 7 - 21, 1980.
Ceased publication?
In English.
OCLC # 6980731.
Reel 1, Periodicals by and about Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-872.

4. McCoy Chronicle.
Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
Semi-weekly. 44cm.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - 10;
June 2 - July 4, 1980.
Ceased publication.
In English.
OCLC # 6984644.

Reel 1, Periodicals by and about
Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-872.

5. El Mercurio de McCoy.
Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
Daily. 28-36cm.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - Vol. 8, No. 17;
June 3 - September 29, 1980.
Ceased publication.
In Spanish and English.
OCLC # 6984705.
Reel 2, Periodicals by and about
Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-874.

6. The Minor.
Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
Tri-weekly. 36cm.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - 7;
October 13 - 27, 1980.
Title varies: untitled, October 13 -
17, 1980; as The Daily Minor,
October 20, 1980.
Ceased publication?
In Spanish and English.
Editors: Vicky Ferrer and Mary Voelker,
October 13 - 27, 1980.
OCLC # 6984789.
Reel 2, Periodicals by and about
Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-874.

7. Daily Status Report-Cuban Refugee Resettlement Operation, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
Daily. 28cm.
May 23 - November 1, 1980.
Ceased publication.
In English.
OCLC # 6980671.
Reels 2,3,4, Periodicals by and about
Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-874, 80-871, 80-875.

8. Chaffeegram.
Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.
Daily. 28cm.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - 43;
May 14 - July 23, 1980.
Ceased publication.
In English.
Editor: Doug Smith, May 14 - June 23,
1980.

OCLC # 6975771.
Reel 4, Periodicals by and about
Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-875.

9. Cross Roads.
Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.
Weekly. 38cm.
Vol. 3, No. 1 - 12;
May 22 - August 7, 1980.
Published during the Summer only for
troops on training exercises.
In English.
OCLC # 6984730
Reel 5, Periodicals by and about
Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-873.

10. La Vida Nueva.
Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.
Tri-weekly. 28cm.
No. 1 - 127;
May 10 - November 1, 1980.
Continuing publication, to be
filmed as received.
In Spanish.
Editor: John T. Mullins, May 10,
1980 to date.
OCLC # 6984691.
Reel 5, Periodicals by and about
Cuban Refugees in the United States.
WHi Negative # 80-873.